United Nations S/2012/662

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 August 2012

Original: English

Letter dated 22 August 2012 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of my Government, in its capacity as Chair of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, I have the honour to inform you of the present stage of deliberations of the International Conference concerning the situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and, in that connection, am transmitting herewith the declarations adopted at the summit meetings of the Heads of State and Government, held in Addis Ababa and Kampala on 15 July and 8 August 2012, respectively (see annexes).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Adonia **Ayebare**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

12-47131 (E) 300812

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Annex I to the letter dated 22 August 2012 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region on the security situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo

Extraordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government

Addis Ababa, 15 July 2012

We, the Heads of State and Government of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, meeting in Addis Ababa at the headquarters of the African Union on 15 July 2012, in the margins of the 19th Ordinary Session of the African Union Meeting, held on 15 and 16 July 2012, on the security situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo with a view to consolidating peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region,

Having considered the report from the Extraordinary Meeting of the Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, held in Addis Ababa on 11 July 2012 at the headquarters of the African Union on the security situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Cognizant of the gravity of the security and humanitarian situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the fact that it constitutes a serious threat to peace, security, stability and development in the entire Great Lakes region,

Aware of the persistence of the negative forces and armed groups in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Mindful of our commitment as expressed in the Dar-es-Salaam Declaration on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development in the Great Lakes Region of 20 November 2004, stating our collective determination to transform the Great Lakes region into a space of sustainable peace and security for States and peoples, political and social stability, shared growth and development, a space of cooperation based on the strategies and policies of convergence within the framework of a common destiny which we are determined to build,

Acknowledging the firm commitments made by the Heads of State of the Great Lakes region in the International Conference Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region on 15 December 2006 and its Protocols, specifically the Protocol on Non-Aggression and Mutual Defence in the Great Lakes Region,

Evoking the decision made during the 4th Ordinary Summit of the Heads of State of the International Conference in Kampala on 15 and 16 December 2011 to eradicate existing armed groups in the region in conformity with the Protocol on Non-Aggression and Mutual Defence in the Great Lakes Region,

Do hereby decide as follows to:

1. Approve and endorse the decisions of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee;

2. Condemn in the strongest terms the actions of the 23 March Movement (M23) and other negative forces operating in the region and support the efforts deployed by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the restoration of peace and security in North Kivu Province;

3. Condemn in the strongest terms the continued and unfettered activities of the Forces démocratique de libération du Rwanda (FDLR) and call for immediate military action to eradicate this threat;

4. Direct the appropriate structures of the International Conference to work with the African Union and the United Nations for an immediate establishment of a neutral international force to eradicate M23, FDLR and all other negative forces in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and patrol and secure the border zones;

5. Direct the Ministers of Defence of the International Conference to reconvene in the shortest possible time to review, oversee and fast-track the implementation of the decisions on negative forces in the Great Lakes region made during their meeting in Kigali on 9 September 2011;

6. Demand that the negative forces, in particular M23, immediately stop armed activities and that no support should be given to any negative force to destabilize the region and eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo in particular;

7. Call upon the member States of the International Conference to fully implement the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region and in particular the Protocol on Non-Aggression and Mutual Defence in the Great Lakes Region;

8. Urge the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda to fully implement their existing bilateral mechanisms in addressing the insecurity in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and specifically the full operationalization of the Joint Verification Mechanism and to open up the latter to other member States;

9. Call upon the international community to provide, as a matter of urgency, an appropriate humanitarian support to victims of violence in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, especially in North Kivu Province, and to extend assistance to the victims wherever they may be;

10. Urge officials in member States of the Great Lakes region to ensure that their actions, behaviour, speeches, public statements, contributions and any other utterances be inscribed in the logic of peace, security and stability to be artisans and promoters of peace;

11. Immediately establish a follow-up mechanism by the revival of the team of special envoys, namely, Benjamin Mkapa and General Olusegun Obasanjo, to address the root causes of the problem of insecurity in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and propose a sustainable solution and request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to facilitate the exercise;

12. Set up an ad hoc group of experts composed of six independent experts as per article 25 of the Pact that would prepare and submit a report on eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo to the next meeting of the Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee;

13. Direct the secretariat of the International Conference to follow up on the implementation of the decisions of the Extraordinary Summit and provide regular reports thereof to the Chair of the International Conference.

Done in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 15 July 2012

1. H.E. JOSE EDUARDO DOS SANTOS
President of the Republic of Angola

2. 1er Vice-President
H.E PIERRE NKURUNZIZA
President of the Republic of Burundi

3. H.E. FRANÇOIS BOZIZE
President of the Central African Republic

4. P.O. Chef
H.E. DENIS SASSOU-NGUESSO
President of the Republic of Congo

5. H.E. JOSEPH KABILA
President of the Democratic Republic of Congo

6. H.E. MWAI KIBAKI
President of the Republic of Kenya

7. H.E. PAUL KAGAME
President of the Republic of Rwanda

For 8. Amb. Abdalla Wadi
H.E. OMAR HASSAN AHMED EL BASHIR
President of the Republic of the Sudan

9. H.E. JAKAYA MRISHO KIKWETE
President of the United Republic of Tanzania

10. H.E. YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI
President of the Republic of Uganda

For 11. Ambassador Francis Simenda
S.E. MICHAEL CHILUFYA SATA
President of the Republic of Zambia

Annex II to the letter dated 22 August 2012 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region on the security situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo

Extraordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government

Kampala, 7 and 8 August 2012

We, the Heads of State and Government of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, meeting in Kampala on 7 and 8 August 2012, at the invitation of Yoweri Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda and Chair of the International Conference, to discuss the security situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Recalling our decision made in Addis Ababa on 15 July 2012 to meet in Kampala to discuss the root causes of insecurity in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and to find ways to solve the humanitarian crisis in the area,

Taking note of the Meeting of the Ministers of Defence of the International Conference on the security situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, held in Khartoum on 1 August 2012,

Having considered the report of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region on the security situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, held in Kampala on 6 August 2012,

Cognizant of the gravity of the security and humanitarian situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the fact that it constitutes a serious threat to peace, security, stability and development in the entire Great Lakes region,

Cognizant also of the serious deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo due to the armed activities of the so-called 23 March Movement,

Recalling our firm commitment to the International Conference Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region of 15 December 2006 and its related Protocols,

Recalling our declaration on the security situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo made at the Addis Ababa Extraordinary Summit of 15 July 2012,

Noting that the diplomatic efforts so far undertaken by the region through the Chair of the Summit, President Yoweri Museveni, have created a lull in the fighting in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Determined to seek home-grown solutions to the problems of the Great Lakes region through our established regional mechanisms,

Considering that the Kampala Summit discussions were held in a convivial, fraternal and constructive atmosphere,

Do hereby decide as follows to:

1. Undertake vigorous efforts with a view to ensuring that there is a complete halt to fighting in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, without excluding the possibility of sanctions against those who obstruct the peace process;

2. Support the efforts of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in order to restore peace and security in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, particularly in North Kivu Province;

3. Establish a subcommittee made up of the Ministers of Defence of the Republic of Angola, the Republic of Burundi, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania and

- Mandate the subcommittee to propose urgent actionable steps to ensure that fighting stops completely in order to allow for consolidation of peace, security and stability;
- Mandate the subcommittee to provide details on the operationalization of the Neutral International Force;
- The Subcommittee of Ministers to be chaired by the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Uganda;
- The Chair of the Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee to also provide support to the subcommittee of ministers regarding all diplomatic aspects;

4. Request the subcommittee to submit its interim report to the Chair of the International Conference in two weeks, and its final report to the Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the International Conference in four weeks;

5. Request the Chair of the International Conference to continue his consultations, including with a view to reengaging the team of special envoys and to consolidating peace in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo;

6. Set up a trust fund to support victims of the humanitarian crisis in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and neighbouring countries, urge member States and other partners to contribute to the fund and thank the Government of Uganda for contributing $1 million to the fund;

7. Call upon the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to the victims of the conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and ensure that access of humanitarian aid to the victims is not obstructed;

8. Thank the Government and the people of Uganda for the warm hospitality in hosting the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State.

Done at Kampala, Uganda, on 8 August 2012

1. .....
H.E. JOSE EDUARDO DOS SANTOS
President of the Republic of Angola

2. .....
H.E PIERRE NKURUNZIZA
President of the Republic of Burundi

3. .....
H.E. FRANÇOIS BOZIZE
President of the Central African Republic

4. .....
H.E. DENIS SASSOU-NGUESSO
President of the Republic of Congo

5. .....
H.E. JOSEPH KABILA KABANGE
President of the Democratic Republic of Congo

6. .....
For H.E MWAI KIBAKI
President of the Republic of Kenya

7. .....
H.E. PAUL KAGAME
President of the Republic of Rwanda

8. .....
For H.E. OMAR HASSAN AHMED EL BASHIR
President of the Republic of the Sudan

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President of the United Republic of Tanzania

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President of the Republic of Uganda

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